Christpher Bush & David Bush V S.C Adams, et al.

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	Page 1			Page 3
1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	SERGEANT SEAN ADAMS	
2	for the	2	Being called as a witness by and on behalf of the	
3	EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA	3	Plaintiff, being first duly sworn, as hereinafter	
Į		4	certified, was examined and testified as follows:	
5		5	MR. PURICELLI: My name is Brian Puricelli	
5		6	here for a witness deposition in regards to an	
7	CHRISTPHER BUSH AND DAVID BUSH	7	action up in Pennsylvania against the	
3	Plaintiff	8	Pennsylvania State Police. I'm going to ask	
9	,	9	you a series of questions. If I ask you a	
)	v. Civil Action No. 07-4926	10	question you're not fully able to understand,	
L		11	please tell me. I'll try to rephrase it.	
2	S.C. ADAMS, ET AL.	12	MR. PURICELLI: Do we have the usual	
3	Defendants	13	stipulation?	,
		14	MR. SIMOPOULOS: What stipulation is that?	
5		15	MR. PURICELLI: The usual stipulation is	
5	Deposition of SERGEANT SEAN ADAMS, taken at the	16	if I ask a question other than a privileged	
7	instance of the Plaintiff, before Mary E. Aliff,	17	question or the form of the question and he	
3	Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of	18	doesn't understand, he'll answer the question	
)	Virginia at Large on May 20, 2010 commencing at	19	that I ask and any objections are preserved and	
	10:00 a.m. at the offices of the City of Richmond	20	reserved for trial.	
)				
	City Attorney, 900 E. Broad Street, Richmond,	21	MR. SIMOPOULOS: That's okay.	
2	Virginia, pursuant to Rule 4:5 of the Supreme Court	22	MR. PURICELLI: All right.	
	Rules of Virginia, pursuant to notice.	23	You have the right to read and sign,	
L		24	meaning before the court stenographer releases	
5		25	the official version she can send it to you if	
	Page 2	1		Page
L	APPEARANCES:	1	you're going to be purchasing a copy and not go	
2		2	to her. And he can review to do any	
3	Mr. Brian Puricelli, Esg. Law Offices of Brian Puricelli 691 Washington Crossing Road Newtown, PA 18904	3	corrections. Now, the corrections wouldn't be	
4	691 Washington Crossing Road Newtown, PA 18904	4	to change the answer. The correction would be	
5	on behalf of Plaintiff;	5	if you meant to say "where" and "when" is there	
5	on outsit of rametry	6	you would say, no. I meant to say "where" not	
7		7	"when." Things like that.	
3	Mr. Nicholas Simopoulos, Esq.	8	So he'll read and sign?	
9	Mr. Nicholas Simopoulos, Esq. Office of the City Attorney 900 East Board Street Richmond, Virginia 23219	9	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Yes.	
)	Richmond, virginia 23219	10	MR. PURICELLI: Okay.	
L	on behalf of Defendant.	11	DIRECT EXAMINATION	
2		12	BY MR. PURICELLI:	
3		13	Q Sir, my name is Brian Puricelli. I	
1	INDEX	14	represent the plaintiff. Could you identify	
5		15	yourself for the record, please.	
5	DIRECT EXAMINATION	16	A My name is Sean Adams.	
7	DIRECT EXAMINATION By Plaintiff pages 4 - 139	17	Q Mr. Adams, you are a Richmond City Police	
3	No Cross Examination	18		
9		19	A Yes, sir; I am.	
0		20	Q When did you start working for the	
	Exhibit No. 1 page 19 Adams Police File	21		
1	Exhibit No. 2 page 19 Warrants	22	Richmond City Police Department?	
2		23	A January 1994. Q What was the hiring process to become a	
			O What was the hiring process to become a	
3	1			
23	Eratta pages 141 - 144	24		

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		age 5			Page 7
1	on my part, and we had to have a written test,		1	Q Okay. Can you give me a general idea of	
2	physical test, background interview and a		2	your understanding of that training.	
3	conditional offer of employment and then offer of		3	A As a supervisor I'm trained as far as what	
4	acceptance of actual employment.		4	the pitfalls may be in terms of failure to supervise	
5	Q Okay. And I assume, correct me if I'm		5	employees and failure to train individuals so they	
6	wrong, you went through that process, passed it and		6	know the right things to do. That's basically it.	
7	have been an officer since January 1994?		7	It's just anything that may occur under what they	
8	A Yes.	1	8	call a 1983 Violation.	
9	Q Okay. When you became an officer was	-	9	Q Have you received any formalized training	
О	there any training provided to you?		10		
1	A Yes, there was.	1	11	relations and rights of family relations?	
2	Q What was that training?	1	12	A I'm not sure what you're asking.	
3	A It was approximately an eight-month basic		13	Q Sure. A right of a parent to be with his	
4	police academy. I believe it was 34 weeks actually.		14	child, the right of a parent to petition or use the	
5	Involved reviewing the law in the State of Virginia,	1	15	courts to obtain custody of a child or visitation	
6	training in defensive tactics, driving techniques,		16	rights?	
7	restraint of prisoners, a myriad of topics involving		17	A At the federal level I don't believe I've	
8	law enforcement.		18	received any training in reference to that.	
9	Q Okay. Does the Commonwealth of Virginia		19	Q At any kind of level? You say federal	
0	require a mandatory update of training?		20	level. I don't know if Virginia provides any?	
1	A Yes, sir; they do.		21	A Definitely. Virginia State Law is what	
2	Q What would that training requirement be?		22	we're trained on in terms of who has rights to	
3	A 40 hours of in-service every two years.		23	custody, interpreting orders of the court, petitions	
4	Q Prior to becoming a police officer for the		24	of the court, juvenile domestic relations.	
5	city had you worked for any other police		25	Q Okay. Give me the extent of the training	
	P	age 6			Page
1	departments?		1	as best you recall it.	
2	A No, sir; I haven't.		2	A It's pretty straightforward in the State	
3	Q Had you received any types of training to		3	of Virginia. Absent a court order as long as the	
4	be a police officer?		4	arrangement between two individuals that are still	
5	A No, sir; I didn't.		5	married, individuals each have equal right to	
6	Q Have you had any military experience as a		6	custody of the children. Anything outside of that	
7	police officer?		7	is usually decreed by the Court, delineated in the	
8	A No, sir.		8	order of divorce, something along those lines.	
9	Q Okay. Did any of your training that you		9	There are also petitions that are reviewed and	
0	received to be a police officer since starting to		10	either granted or not granted by the Court that give	
.1	present date involve anything with federal law?		11	temporary custody to parents of the children or a	
2	A I received some training through other		12	third party.	
3	outside training opportunities. I can't exactly		13	Q How does Virginia Law as you've been	
4	enumerate what those are but a lot of drug training		14	trained deal with persons who have left one's state	
5	can be applied federally, fire arms.	1	15	and relocated to Virginia without having a custody	
6	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Maybe specify what you	1	16	order and the other natural parent shows up	
7	mean.	i	17	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Objection to form.	
8	MR. PURICELLI: Yes. Noncriminal.	1	18		
9	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Specify federally.	1	19	Q Do you understand the question?	
0	MR. PURICELLI: Sure.	1	20	A I'm sorry. One more time.	
1	BY MR. PURICELLI:		21	Q No problem. The training you received in	
2	Q Civil rights or constitutional rights.		22		
3	A On occasion during the legal update which	1	23	your understanding of the process that should be	
4	is part of in-service we're trained in terms of	1	24		
		1		partition, and an armine, the meaning,	
25	violation of civil rights, civil liberties.		25	relocates to Virginia say from Pennsylvania without	

	Pa	ige 9	Page 1
1	a custody order, and the other natural parent, the		MR. PURICELLI: Okay.
2	father, comes to Virginia and wishes to see his		BY MR. PURICELLI:
3	children or even have custody of his children? How		Q So she relocates to Virginia with the
4	do the police handle that situation?		children. He's looking for his children, finds them
5	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Objection to form.		after a period of time looking for them. Are those
6	THE WITNESS: Are you talking about		the facts as you understand that bring you to be
7	divorced parents?		brought into this deposition?
8	BY MR. PURICELLI:		MR. SIMOPOULOS: Objection to form.
9	Q Divorced but no custody order?		THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I understand
10	A Divorced but no custody order. Seems to	1	what you just asked.
11	be logical that whoever has custody of the child or	1	BY MR. PURICELLI:
12	would have been given custody by the previous court,	1	Q Well, I gave you a series of facts that
13	that would prevail.	1	brings the lawsuit that's in Pennsylvania. To a
14	Q Okay. And if there is no custody order	1	basic degree those are the facts. You said you're
15	from the courts but there is a divorce?	1	familiar with the facts. I want to know if those
16	A If there is no custody order? Then I'm	1	are the facts that you're familiar with? If they're
17	not exactly certain. I would have to receive some	1	
18	advice about that.	1	
19	Q Okay. Do you recall any type of training	1	
20	in that type of scenario?	2	
21	A Not at this time I don't.	2	
22	Q Okay. Who would you talk to to obtain	2	
23	that type of advice to find out how you should	2	
24	proceed as a police officer in that scenario?	2	
25	A I'd consult the Commonwealth's Attorney's	2	
		ge 10	Page 1
1	Office.		MR. SIMOPOULOS: Compound question.
2	Q Are you familiar with the facts that bring		Objection to form.
3	you to be deposed today?		MR. PURICELLI: That's reserved for trial.
4	A As best I recall them, yes.		THE WITNESS: The facts as I know them
5	Q Okay. I'll give you some facts, and if		were that I was contacted by a police officer
6	they're not in sync with what you believe the facts		6 in Pennsylvania about an individual who is
7	are, tell me. And we'll see what you know are the		7 living in Virginia in the City of Richmond with
8	facts, and we'll try to operate on the facts as you		three children who was divorced from David Bush
9	know them.		who had a court order from Pennsylvania to have
10	Mr. Bush, who is to my right,	1	
			The state of the s
11	directly across from you, is the natural father of		The state of the s
12	several children known as the Bush children. His		in Richmond, Virginia with three children of
13	wife, Serene, and he divorced but have no custody		David Bush had changed their names and changed
14	order. Serene then left the Commonwealth of	1	their social security numbers and was living in
15	Pennsylvania without a court order allowing her to		hiding unlawfully presumably from David Bush.
16	remove the children from the Commonwealth of		And that there was a valid court order which
17	Pennsylvania to relocate with the children, and she		7 would return custody to Mr. Bush.
18	does not have a court order.		8 BY MR. PURICELLI:
19	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Objection. Is there a		Q Okay. Now, are those the facts as you
20	question?	2	o recall them today?
21	MR. PURICELLI: Yes. I'm giving him	2	A Those are the facts as I recall them.
22	facts.	2	Q Okay. And when you say that she had a
23	MR. SIMOPOULOS: I object to reading facts	2	valid court order are you certain of that fact?
24	into the record as a deposition is questions	2	A I didn't say she had a valid court order.
25	and answers.	2	5 Q All right. Well, you said the detective

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1	from Pennsylvania told you the person who relocated	1 1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
2	to the City of Richmond had a valid court order.		was going to call back at a later date. I believe
3	A No. That Mr. Bush had a valid court	3	
4	order.	4	either advised Joel Lawson that he would be calling
5	Q Okay. So is it your understanding that	5	back, or I had given him the phone number for the
6	the person who was in Richmond with the three	6	detective in Pennsylvania and advised him to call.
7	children did not have a valid court order, custody	7	But I put them into contact with each other at that
8	order?	8	point.
9	A That was unclear at the time whether they	9	Q Did you take any active part in the
0	had actual possession of the children. But it was	10	
1	determined or inferred that he had the legal right	11	A No. I had to take an active part in the
2	to have physical custody of the children.	12	investigation.
3	Q Okay. And based on those facts did you	13	Q When did you take an active part?
4	receive any type of training as a police officer in	14	A I'm not sure of the exact date, but it was
5	Virginia that would allow you to then know exactly	15	
6	what you should or shouldn't be doing as a police	16	The state of the s
7	officer?	17	
8			Q At the time Detective Lawson became ill
	A Yes. Based upon that set of circumstances	18	and any action occur taken by the Helmholia City
9	the Commonwealth Attorney's Office was consulted and	19	a short a spanning to receive the Bush emiliaren.
0	the decision	20	A To recover from the former Ms. Bush?
1	Q Who did you speak with there?	21	Q Yes.
2	A I didn't speak with anyone there. My	22	A Yes, sir. He was involved in
3	detective spoke to a representative of the	23	and the same state of the same
4	Commonwealth Attorney's Office who spoke with an	24	there was another detective involved. And then the
5	Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney.	25	children were turned over to the custody of
	Page 14		Page 16
1	Q Were you informed by this detective of	1	
2	that conversation?	2	the state of the s
3	A Yes.	3	
4	Q Do you recall who that detective is, the	4	A My involvement was subsequent to that,
5	name of the detective?	5	yes.
6	A The detective's name is Joel Lawson.	6	Q Okay. Prior to Detective Lawson becoming
7	Q He is with the City of Richmond Police	7	ill did you instruct him in any way on how to
8	Department?	8	proceed?
9	A He's since retired.	9	A I recall us talking about the case, the
0	Q He's retired now?	10	
1	A Yes.	11	1 5 To 1 T
2	Q At the time he was?	12	
3	A Yes. He was one of my detectives in the	13	
4	unit.	14	A I believe so.
5	Q Is there a reason he was assigned to this	15	Q Did he prepare any types of reports?
6	case or just making the phone call?	16	
7	A He was available when the initial call	17	Q Did you bring those reports today?
8	came in. I assigned him the case.	18	
9	Q So you were supervising his activities?	19	
0	A Yes.	20	
	50,440 100 504045		F-8-1-8-1 (materies) here: This there may be some
1	Q All right. Did Joel Lawson take the	21	more administrative paperwork that he did which just
2	actual call and receive the assignment from you	22	The same of the sa
3	directly, or how did he actually start	23	
4	investigating?	24	the page of the same of the page of
25	A I told Detective Lawson that I received a	25	And your attorney can look at them. There's no

Page 17 y. Tell me if what you're	2	Page 1 We'll mark this as Adams 1. (The aforementioned documents
i I	2	
what you're		(The aforementioned documents
th	3	were marked for purposes of
e are the pages	4	identification as Deposition
1 71	5	Exhibit No. 1.)
1		MR. PURICELLI: Is that acceptable?
		MR. SIMOPOULOS: That's fine. For the
7.0		purposes of the deposition?
		MR. PURICELLI: Yes. And just to finish
		the file out, I want to show you what we'll
		have marked Adams 2.
-		(The aforementioned documents
	13	were marked for purposes of
date we marked	14	identification as Deposition
	15	Exhibit No. 2.)
	16	BY MR. PURICELLI:
	17	Q Sergeant, what I've shown you is Adams 2
you indicate	18	which are the documents I have which appear to be a
p the official	19	four-page document consisting of two felony
	20	warrants. And I'm assuming, and correct me if I'm
l that would	21	wrong, you have these copies in your file as part of
g the lines that	22	your file?
check and see	23	A They're part of my file. There's more
	24	warrants on file.
	25	Q Okay. And that was going to be my next
Page 18		Page 2
is like there's a	1	question. Are there any other documents that would
g that.	2	consist of your file that we have not marked?
ur attorney	3	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Of course, you can review
nere	4	these documents to make sure those are the same
	5	as what you have.
ws document.)	6	THE WITNESS: (Reviews documents.) This
s his writing.	7	is for two of the three children.
ries he made.	8	BY MR. PURICELLI:
en all that stuff.	9	Q There would be another one for the other
s proffered.)	10	child?
	11	A Yes, sir.
	12	Q Would it be substantially the same form as
	13	that one?
Off the record.	14	A Yes, sir.
	15	Q Would there be any differences between the
(2)	16	last child that's not indicated in these two
		warrants?
	18	A Other than the name and the IDR Number
		probably not much else.
	1	Q All right. Aside from the missing warrant
		for the one child which we can determine I don't
	22	think it's necessary unless your attorney says
n nis me		
is a second of the second of t	1 1	
awson previously	23	otherwise is there any other document that I haven't shown you or that we haven't copied?
	he record I'm op 4, a three-page e upper right hand in the deposition vania State see that? January date we marked s you indicate up the official d that would g the lines that check and see Page 18 ks like there's a g that. our attorney here ews document.) is his writing. ries he made. een all that stuff. is proffered.) documents.) Can can return what Off the record. ily off the e the che marked 13 nt Adams that	he record I'm op 4, a three-page c upper right hand in the deposition vania State see that? January date we marked 14 15 16 17 18 19 19 10 11 10 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11

	osition of Sergeant Sean Adams		Christpher Bush & David Bush V S.C Adai	
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1	all the documents that you have and compare them and	1	part of your file; correct? Off the record.	
2	let me be certain of that.	2	A Yes, sir.	
3	Q Well, I've shown you what I have.	3	Q And you've provided me with copies of the	
4	A Just with respect to the ones?	4	police report, clearances, warrants and identifying	
5	Q Well, with respect to your file?	5	various court filings in matters that are contained	
6	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Are you asking for a copy	6	and make up your file; correct?	
7	of the file?	7	A Everything that you said that you didn't	
8	MR. PURICELLI: Yes. But I don't need to	8	have that I do have you now either have copies or	
9	see copies of things we already have.	9	they're being made for you right now.	
10	THE WITNESS: Without looking at it I	10	Q Okay. When the call came in you indicated	
11	can't be certain.	11	that you talked to a Pennsylvania Detective. Do you	
12	MR. PURICELLI: All right. Why don't you	12	recall who that was?	
13	look through your file for a few minutes here,	13	A He identified himself as Chris Bush.	
14	and see if there are other documents. If there	14	Q Did you create a report in regards to that	
15	are pull them aside.	15	communication?	
16	MR. SIMOPOULOS: Just so we're clear. Are	16	A No, sir. I just made note of it probably	
17	there other documents besides Adams 2?	17	on my daily pad where I write stuff down.	
18	MR. PURICELLI: We know there's another	18	Q And when we went through your file was	
19	warrant. I know there's probably a warrant for	19	,	
20	that child floating around. But there has been	20	A No, sir. I tried to locate that	
21 22	a change on the name as I understand it so	21	previously and was unsuccessful.	
23	there's no sense making a copy. THE WITNESS: You want me to go through	23	Q Okay. Do you recall what was contained on	
24	my file and see if you have a copy of it?	24		
25	my file and see if you have a copy of it:	25	A Nothing other than what I testified to.	
_	Page 22			Page 24
1	BY MR. PURICELLI:	1	Q Okay. Subsequently after taking the	age 24
2	Q I'm giving you everything that I have	2	information is that when you then assigned the job,	
3	basically that I can think of that is part of your	3	as they say on the street, to Lawson?	
4	file that I've been able to put together in this	4	A I passed the assignment off to him, yes.	
5	suit so far.	5	Q Okay. Now, the particular facts that were	
6	A Okay.	6	described to you as you understand them are the	
7	Q I'm asking you to look at the documents	7	types of facts that are common in your experience as	
8	we've looked at already, including Lawson's notes,	8	a police officer?	
9	the warrants, and the ones that your attorney has	9	A I wouldn't characterize them as terribly	
10	been gracious enough to copy for us and see if there	10	common, no.	
11	are others. And we'll look at them, and I'll tell	11	Q Okay. Were they facts that you had come	
12	you if I have them or not. If not, I'll ask for	12		
13	copies. So we'll go off the record for a few	13	officer?	
14	minutes.	14	A I really can't say. I mean, I haven't had	
15	(Proceedings temporarily off the	15		
16	record after which time the	16	numbers were changed before and they've left another	r
17	following resumed on the	17	state. I can't say that I had had that experience	
18	record.)	18	before. But I'm not saying that I didn't. It just	
19	BY MR. PURICELLI:	19	didn't leap to mind.	
20	Q All right. We've gone through your police	20	Q Okay. And as a result you indicated you	
21	file for the Bush matter, I'll refer to it as.	21	contacted somebody in the City Attorney's Office?	
22	A Yes, sir.	22	A I didn't contact somebody in the City	
23	Q Okay. And we've identified for the	23	Attorney's Office.	
24	purposes of this deposition documents that I don't	24		
25	have and various documents that I do have that are	25	A That's something I don't recall and I	